
True Benevolence

by Eugene V. Debs

Unsigned editorial published in *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*,
vol. 8, no. 4 (April 1884), pg. 212.

Benevolence does not mean lavish expenditure of money. The biggest spendthrift may be a mean man at heart. He spends his money lavishly simply to gratify himself, while the truly benevolent man spends it where it will do his fellows good. Benevolence does not consist in putting your hand in your pocket and giving heedlessly to the first charitable object that presents itself. The benevolent man is a wise man and a kind man. He not only gives his money, but his heart also. He loves his fellows and sympathizes with them.

The benevolent man is not jealous. He does not turn green with envy because someone is getting along faster than he is. He rejoices in the success of his friends.

Benevolence is modest. It doesn't give five cents with one hand and beat a drum at the same time with the other. Benevolence consists in helping each other long. The benevolent man helps his comrade to promotion and doesn't call those above him "stuck up" because they have reached a little higher position.

Brothers, let us rejoice in each other's advancement. Don't sneer at a man because he is a little ahead in the race of life; the sneer doesn't hurt him and it shows your envy. The envious man is always unhappy. In this big world of ours there is room for all, and in our ranks true benevolence should mean help and sympathy for all.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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